

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) A method of renting a construction machine, comprising the steps of:

renting one or more construction machines to one or more renters;

collecting operating information of the one or more construction machines rented to the one or more renters, by information control means, wherein said operating information includes an operating time of the construction machine;

calculating a point number related to a reduced consumption of the useful life of the construction machine by the operation of the construction machine by each renter, on the basis of an evaluation standard related to the consumption of the useful life of the construction machine and using said operating information collected by said information control means; and

totaling and presenting said point number to each renter,

wherein said evaluation standard is used to calculate the point number based on a value obtained by subtracting an actual operating time from a standard operating time only in a case where the actual operating time of the construction machine is less than the standard operating time.

Claim 4. (Cancelled).

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) A method of renting a construction machine, comprising the steps of:

renting one or more construction machines to one or more renters;

collecting operating information of the one or more construction machines rented to the one or more renters, by information control means;

calculating a point number for each renter on the basis of an evaluation standard, using said operating information collected by said information control means; and

totaling and presenting said point number to each renter,

wherein said operating information includes a load ratio of the construction machine, and wherein said evaluation standard is used to calculate the point number based on a value obtained by subtracting an actual load ratio from a standard load ratio only in a case where the actual load ratio is smaller than the standard load ratio.

Claim 6. (Cancelled).

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) A method of renting a construction machine, comprising the steps of:

renting one or more construction machines to one or more renters;

collecting operating information of the one or more construction machines rented to the one or more renters, by information control means;

calculating a point number related to a reduced consumption of the useful life of the construction machine by the operation of the construction machine by each renter, on the basis of an evaluation standard related to the consumption of the useful life of the construction machine and using said operating information collected by said information control means; and

totaling and presenting said point number to each renter,

wherein said evaluation standard is used to calculate the point number based on a value obtained by subtracting an actual used time from a standard used time only in a case where the actual used time is less than the standard used time.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A method of renting a construction machine according to Claim 3, comprising the steps of:

~~renting one or more construction machines to one or more renters;~~
~~collecting operating information of the one or more construction machines rented to the one or more renters, by information control means;~~
~~calculating a point number for each renter on the basis of an evaluation standard, using said operating information collected by said information control means; and~~
~~totaling and presenting said point number to every renter,~~
wherein said point number is adjusted according to a stock state of available construction machines for rent.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in renting a construction machine, comprising:

information control means for collecting operating information of one or more construction machines rented to one or more renters, said information control means having calculation means for calculating a point number related to a reduced consumption of the useful life of the construction machine by using said operating information collected by said information control means, wherein said point number is based on a value obtained by subtracting an actual operating time or load ratio from a standard operating time or load ratio only in a case where the actual operating time or load ratio of the construction machine is less

than the comparison of an actual operating time or load ratio and a standard operating time or load ratio, and

presentation means for totaling and presenting said point number to each renter.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for use in renting a construction machine according to Claim 9, comprising:

~~information control means for collecting operating information of one or more construction machines rented to one or more renters, said information control means having calculation means for calculating a point number for each of said renters on the basis of an evaluation standard using said operating information, and~~

~~presentation means for totaling and presenting said point number to each renter,~~

wherein said calculation means is provided with adjustment means for adjusting said point number according to stock state of available construction machines for rent.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A system for use in renting a construction machine, comprising:

one or more construction machines to be rented to one or more renters, said construction machine having a detector for detecting operating information and transmission means for transmitting said detected operating information; and

the apparatus of claim 9 communicable with said construction machine, said apparatus having a receiver for receiving said operating information transmitted from said one or more construction machines.

Claim 12. (Cancelled).